

their interest. On the contrary, there is every likelihood that whether success attends their efforts or not they will not have labored in vain.

Research into plant life and experimental work in connection with the production of new and improved varieties of seeds are receiving attention. Mr. James Elder, Athelstaneford Mains, Drun, East Lothian, has summoned the Highland and Agricultural Society, of which he is a director, to undertake a crusade in favor of the establishment of a National Experimental Station where, under the control of the Board of Agriculture, the production of new varieties of plants and seeds would be prosecuted. Meanwhile pending this large scheme the Board has instituted a seed-testing and plant-testing station. The object of this establishment is to regulate the placing of new and improved varieties of farm plants and seeds upon the market. The feeling is widespread that at present there are many more names than varieties in the market; in other words, that many so-called "new" varieties are not at all new, but in the absence of any central authority to regulate such things there has been no possibility of preventing the multiplication of names. The evil is specially seen in the case of potatoes. Experts are agreed that many varieties so-called are not varieties at all, that the only new thing about many of them is their names. The station that has been opened will both test all such and regulate the placing of genuine new varieties upon the market. It will at once protect the man who is doing genuine work and hinder, if not eclipse, the spurious efforts of the charlatan who trades upon the credulity and ignorance of the unthinking. The scheme which Mr. Elder has inaugurated is much more ambitious than this. Hitherto the production of new varieties of cereals and roots has been left to private enterprise. Splendid work has been done by seedsmen in this line, but it has long been felt that the risks attending such work should be undertaken by the Govern-

ment. The loss attending all such experimental work is considerable, while the resultant benefit has seldom gone in any appreciable degree to the man or firm to whom the credit of producing the new variety belongs. That there is abundant room for such work is evident from the success which has attended Professor Biffin's experimental work in producing new varieties at Cambridge. Scotland possesses peculiar advantages for producing new and hardy varieties of seeds and roots. A very large proportion of the seed potatoes used in England are raised in Scotland. The world knows about Scott's Shorthorns, and Aberdeen-Angus, and Ayrshire and Galloway cattle—all breeds possessing distinct characteristics in the direction of hardiness and constitution, which have created a demand for them throughout the world. The same remark applies to Clydesdale horses and other breeds of horses and ponies. There is, therefore, every inducement for the Board of Agriculture to take this matter in hand, and they are quite keen to do so.

Reference to horses leads me to offer a few observations on the recrudescence of the battle of the breeds. Recently there came into my hands an extraordinary illustration of the enterprise of Americans in pushing the Percheron breed in the Northwest. Apparently the promoters believe that elaborate and audacious advertising can make a breed popular. I am old-fashioned enough to believe that what makes either a race of horses or a race of men popular is reliability and utility. Scotsmen, as a race, have made their way in the world with a minimum of advertising but with a maximum of the qualities which ensure respect and stability to the commonwealth. The declaration through a dozen pages of a newspaper that the Percheron is the greatest draft horse on earth will never make him so—and if he were so, there would be no necessity for proclaiming the fact at such expense. Here we are having the same breed boomed for all it is worth by the Earl of Lonsdale in Cumberland, and Mr. Overman

in Norfolk. Somehow I do not feel impressed. I never heard that Lord Lonsdale knew much about a draft horse, and I am not sure that he would ever have earned his living in horse-breeding and horse-dealing if he had not been born an Earl. His criticisms of the native British draft breeds, the Clydesdale, the Shire, and the Suffolk suggest that he has been most unfortunate in his acquaintance with them. No one who knows the A. B. C. about Clydesdales would ever write down "greasy legs" as one of their worst faults. The Clydesdale is not perfect. I do not happen to have run across any breed which is, but a good Clydesdale has the best feet and legs—by which I mean the feet and legs which wear best and longest—of any draft horse. It is rather strange in all this talk about the relative merits of breeds that somebody who has cash to spare does not take the trouble to organize a fair trial of the wearing qualities of each breed as represented by the selected champions of each. The best draft horse is the draft horse which wears best and for the longest period in the most trying conditions. He is the horse which will last longest on the streets of great cities under the keenest tests as to endurance and service. The horse most likely to do that is the Clydesdale, because he has been bred and selected for the longest period with that end in view. As the late Andrew Montgomery once tersely expressed it, "A horse's back will never break, but his feet will," and we may add, bones, unless they are flat, thin and clean to begin with will become gross. Recently there was published in the *Scottish Farmer* the photograph, in his 26th year, of the Clydesdale stallion, Montrave Mac 9958. One would like to see alongside that photograph a corresponding photograph of a representative Shire, Suffolk, Percheron and Belgian draft horse of the same age. I make no prophecy, but I dare affirm that not one of these others could be found which in respect of sweetness of limbs and soundness of feet, would compare with the Clydesdale. But

varieties, simply because in that way they can render a service in rationing the armies and the civilian peoples of our Allies. In former years there appeared to be time after haying and early in September to put in a field of wheat, and this lessened the rush in the spring. More than that, the straw produced helped out wonderfully. Even under present conditions, when there appears to be no slack time, many will endeavor to put in a substantial acreage of fall wheat and these should now be losing no opportunity of getting the land into condition. Where a summer-fallow is being cared for a loose mulch should be maintained on top and all weeds destroyed with frequent harrowing. The summer-fallow makes a splendid seed bed for wheat if it is not neglected. Excellent crops of wheat are also grown following factory peas, but nothing in that regard can be done just at this time.

Cleared sod fields should now be plowed, rolled and harrowed. The roller can be of great service if used properly, but it likewise can be the means of causing a great loss of moisture if it is not used judiciously. The best way to employ the roller is to plow no more in one day than can be rolled and harrowed before quitting at night. Sod for wheat should be plowed no less than five inches deep, and then rolled down so as to establish if possible the little water channels which lead from the reservoir in the soil up to the surface. However, if these channels, established by rolling, are not broken at the top serious loss of moisture will result, and in this way the roller may do an irreparable amount of harm. Follow the roller immediately with the disks and establish a soil mulch to prevent evaporation. Some then go on with the harrows and break down the lumps and clods which are likely to be thrown up by the disks. This certainly leaves the surface in splendid condition and permits of a minimum of evaporation. Allow the weed seeds to germinate and then use the harrows again before the surface becomes hard or baked.

A twelve-acre field at Weldwood was treated in this way last autumn. A top dressing of about 7 loads of manure to the acre was applied shortly before seeding and cultivated in. The wheat sent up a reasonably good top growth last fall and the crop survived the winter excellently. At time of writing the prospects on this particular field are for a good crop, and this we attribute to the attention the land received prior to seeding, and the top growth made last fall. Generally, there was little growth made on wheat fields last autumn and the severe weather killed the roots. A thoroughly prepared seed bed with a top dressing of manure, and perhaps some commercial fertilizer, should bring the growth on satisfactorily this fall and ensure, to a degree, its survival throughout the winter and spring.



Use the Roller Judiciously and Follow Immediately with Disks or Harrows.

on this subject enough has first and last been written. Let the same class of Clydesdales be placed alongside the equal grade of other draft breeds, and no one who knows anything about what constitutes real wearing quality in a draft horse need have any fear as to the result.

Meantime we are more concerned about the War between the nations than about the War between the horse breeds. Let us earnestly labor and pray that we are within sight of the end.

SCOTLAND YET.

Preparing Land For Fall Wheat.

In spite of the injury to wheat fields planted last autumn at the cost of considerable labor and expensive seed, the farmers of Ontario will again respond no doubt to the appeals made for still more wheat, and take another chance on this crop which is so badly needed. Those fields which came through the winter and spring in anything like reasonable condition will yield a fair return to the grower, and at the same time help to relieve the situation which will become acute before the main wheat harvest begins. Seed is none too plentiful and in many cases in this Province we shall have to take grain from the machine and prepare it for the land almost at once. There should be a spirit of co-operation throughout the country in regard to the seed question, for many will have bushels to spare while others will have to purchase their entire supply.

The important thing, however, at the moment is to prepare the land or start the cultivation so a suitable seed bed will be ready at the proper time. Much of the success which attends all wheat growing depends on the character of the soil and the preparation of the seed bed. Some farms seem particularly adapted to the crop, while others will not respond to even the most diligent and scientific attention. Wheat, in the Province of Ontario, is not the most popular crop by any means, and many are growing it now, both fall and spring

Government's Action Questioned.

The right of the Ottawa Government to cancel, by Order-in-Council, exemptions from military service previously granted under the Military Service Act, has recently been called in question at Calgary, where eight applications for Habeas Corpus have been received from soldiers affected by the Order-in-Council of April 20, respecting young men 20 to 22 years of age. R. B. Bennett, formerly Director-General of National Service and member of Parliament for Calgary, introduced the first case into the appellate division of the supreme court of Alberta, late in June, and the matter has been given wide publicity since. Objection to the enforcement of the Order-in-Council is based upon the fact that the writ of Habeas Corpus, established by the Imperial statute of 1767 as part of the British law in Canada, cannot be suspended nor abolished by the Canadian Parliament and, further, that certain procedures established as law by act of Parliament cannot be amended by an Order-in-Council: action by Parliament and not the Governor-in-Council is necessary.

It appears that this point was raised by the opposition at the time when approval of the Order-in-Council was asked of the House by resolution. The Government, however, claimed to be acting by virtue of the War Measures Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1914, an Act which, it is claimed, provides sufficient authority for the action taken because of a specific provision in the Military Service Act, providing that nothing in the latter Act shall detract from the powers of the Governor-in-Council granted under the War Measures Act. The position of the Government seems to be less assured because the Order-in-Council was prepared and enforced while Parliament was in session, a monarchic rather than a democratic procedure, justified, according to the statements of the Government, however, by reason of the very great need for men. Had the Military Service Act required to be amended according to strict constitutional procedure, fully a month would have been required, and this, it is maintained, would have occupied more time than was justified under the conditions surrounding the reinforcement of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The Government will, of course, appeal the decision of the majority of judges in the Alberta Court of Appeal, and will take the case to the Supreme Court of Canada, but will in the meantime, according to statements from Ottawa, proceed as usual with the enforcement of the Order-in-Council. Should the Supreme Court decide against them, the Government will have no recourse but to rectify the mistakes by special session of Parliament or drop the carrying out of their avowed intentions. This latter, it is stated, they have no intention of doing and the administration of the Act will be continued, whatever may happen. In any case, the decision of the Alberta Court can affect no young men outside of the Province of Alberta. It would be regrettable indeed if the country were forced to bear the expense of a special Parliament.